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Rules of Discipline

OF THE

YEARLY MEETING

OF

FRIENDS,

"Hicksite" as p. 105

HELD IN PHILADELPHIA.

West Chester:
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TO THE READER.

WITH a view of presenting to the public a correct copy of the Discipline of Friends, the work, as it came from the press, was submitted to the inspection and revisal of several members of the society, and great care was used to have it to correspond with the original.—Most of the alterations that have been made since the book was last printed, it was thought best to give in an appendix in the latter part of the work, and to refer to them in the places where they were designed to belong.

J. P.

Introduction.

AS it hath pleased the Lord in these latter days, by his spirit and power, to gather a people to himself; and, releasing them from the impositions and teachings of men, to inspire them with degrees of the same universal love and good will by which the dispensation of the gospel was ushered in, these have been engaged to meet together for the worship of God in Spirit, according to the direction of the holy Lawgiver; as also for the exercise of a tender care over each other, that all may be preserved in unity of faith and practice, answerable to the description which He the ever-blessed Shepherd gave of his flock, "by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John xiii. 35.

For this important end, and as an exterior hedge of preservation to us, against the many temptations and dangers to which our situation in this world exposes us, the following rules have been occasionally adopted by the society, and now form our code of discipline. In the exercise whereof it is to be observed that, if any member be found in a conduct subversive of its order, or repugnant to the testimonies which we believe we are intrusted

with for the promotion of truth in the earth, it becomes our indispensable duty to treat with such, in meekness and brotherly compassion, without unnecessary delay or improper exposure; according to the direction of our Lord to his church "if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault, between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it to the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen-man and a publican." Matt. chap. xviii. 15, 16, 17.

This is the extent of the society's censure against irreclaimable offenders, they are disowned as members of our religious community; which is recommended to be done in such a disposition of mind, as may convince them, that we sincerely desire their recovery and restoration, "considering ourselves, lest we also be tempted." Gal. vi. 1

For the more regular and effectual support of this order of the society, beside the usual meetings for the purpose of Divine worship, others are instituted subordinate to each other; such as *First.* Preparative meetings, which commonly consist of the members of a meeting for worship; *Second.* Monthly meetings, each of which commonly consists of several preparative meetings; *Third.* Quarterly meetings, each of which consists of several of the monthly meetings; and *Fourth*, the yearly meeting which comprises the whole.

These meetings have all distinct allotments of service;

and as experience shews that when this service is attended to in uprightness and dedication of heart, with a single eye to the honor of our Holy Head, and the help and edification one of another, in the love wherewith he has loved us, our assemblies are often favored with his aid and direction; Friends are affectionately desired and exhorted, to be diligent in the attendance of them; and when met, humbly seek to be clothed with the spirit of wisdom and charity; this will divest the mind of a dependance on our own strength and abilities, endue us with patience and condescension towards each other; and being preserved in fellowship agreeably to our Lord's declaration, "One is your master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren," a qualification will be experienced in our several stations and movements to build up one another in that faith which works by love to the purifying of the heart.

So may we be living members of the Church militant on earth; and inhabitants of that city which hath foundations, whose maker and builder the Lord is; knowing indeed with exceeding joy that great is He the Holy One of Israel in the midst of her.

records of both the monthly and quarterly meetings in the case, signed by their clerks; here it is to be finally determined, and a copy of the determination is to be sent to the meeting from which the appeal came.

ARBITRATIONS.

IF occasions of differences arise between any of our members about their property, it is recommended that the parties proceed in the following manner:

Let the party who thinks him or herself aggrieved, calmly and kindly request the other to comply with the demand; and, if this be disputed, the complainant, or if he or she lives at two great a distance, some Friend whom they may authorise, should take with him one or two of the overseers, or other discreet Friends, and in their presence repeat the demand.

If this step also fails of the desired effect, the parties should be advised to choose a suitable number of Friends as arbitrators, and mutually engage by bond, or other written instrument adapted to the occasion, to abide by their determination.

Should this proposal be acceeded to, and arbitrators accordingly chosen, they ought, as speedy as circumstances

will admit, to appoint time and place, and attend to the business without unnecessary delay; giving the parties a fair and full hearing in the presence of each other, but listening to neither of them apart, nor suffering their own sentiments to be known abroad till they have fully digested the subject, and come to a clear decision, which they should be careful to do within the time agreed on.

But, if either of the said parties shall refuse to submit the matter in dispute to arbitrators, or, when that is done, neglect to give his or her attendance when desired, without a sufficient reason being assigned, or not abide by their award when issued; in either of those cases, the offender should be complained of to the monthly meeting of which he or she is a member; and if they cannot be brought to a sense of their error, the said meeting should declare its disunion with them, unless such person make it evident to the satisfaction of the said meeting that the award is eroneous or unjust. In which case the matter in dispute may be referred either to the same, or other arbitrators as the meeting shall judge best; and their award shall be final. After which if either of the parties at variance, prove so regardless of peace and unity as not to acquiesce in such corrected determination, the monthly meeting they belong to should proceed to issue a testimony against him or her so refusing.

Where arbitrators are at a loss for want of legal knowledge, it may be proper for them, at the joint expense of the parties to take the opinion of counsel learned in the law, in order to come at a proper judgment in the matter referred to them. And that they may the better answer the end of their appointment, and be helpful in concilia-

ting the minds of the parties, they ought not to consider themselves as advocates for those by whom they are chosen, but as men, whose duty it is to judge righteously, fearing the Lord. They should, as much as may be, shun all previous information respecting the case; or, having heard any thing on it, stand unbiassed thereby. They should reject no evidence or witness proposed; nor receive any but in the presence of both parties; and in their award, they need not assign any reason for their determinations.

And whereas there may be some circumstances even in disputed matters, wherein the foregoing wholesome method of proceeding cannot be complied with; such as, 1st. The party absconding, or leaving the country with design to defraud his or her creditors; or, 2nd. That the going through the meetings, by the time it must necessarily take up, might be a manifest damage to the creditor or claimant, by other people's postponing him or her, as in cases of apparant danger of bankruptcy, or the party being overloaded with debts, and other creditors generally coming on; or, 3d. That there may be danger of future damage to such as submit thereto, as in the case of executors, administrators, or trustees; it may therefore be necessary, and it is advised, that the monthly meeting where such cases happen, do hold excused such as shall in the two first mentioned circumstances in this paragraph, appear to them to be really necessiated to proceed at law; and in the latter case of executors, administrators, or trustees; where it shall appear to the meeting that our friendly way would be unsafe, such may be permitted to have the matter tried at law, with this caution, that the parties

on both sides do behave towards each other in brotherly love, decency and moderation, without anger or animosity, which will be a becoming testimony even in courts, and show that nothing but the nature of the case, and our station in common with others, under the laws of the land, bring any of us there.

As it may sometimes occur that a member, either for want of a clear understanding of the business, or through an improper influence may present a complaint against another member, wherein the overseers, after fully hearing both parties, being decidedly of opinion that the case does not require a reference, they are to advise a speedy settlement thereof; which being ineffectual, and the complainant remaining dissatisfied therewith, he may have liberty to inform the preparative meeting where the other party is a member (without mentioning any name) that having a matter in dispute with one of their members, he is desirous of their assistance in order to a settlement thereof;—the said meeting is then to appoint a judicious committee to inquire into the propriety of the matter being left to arbitration; if they should judge that the complaint ought to be referred, they are to advise that it be submitted accordingly; but if the said committee concur in judgment with the overseers, the complaint is to be dismissed.

It is desired that persons differing about worldly affairs, do as little as may be, engage friends in the ministry as arbitrators in such cases.

BIRTHS AND BURIALS.

AS those who attend burials may sometimes come from far, and be in need of bodily refreshments, it is earnestly advised that, when this is really necessary, it may be taken in moderation; and that Friends be careful in this and all other respects to demean themselves with gravity and decency; remembering that such seasons, especially, ought never to be perverted into opportunities for intemperance or levity. And it is desired that when any thing unseemly appears, the offender may be taken aside and tenderly admonished, that so every thing tending to lessen the solemnity of such occasions, may be avoided.

It is recommended that one or more suitable Friends of each particular meeting be appointed by monthly meetings to attend at funerals, to see that good order is observed; and that the corpse be removed about an hour after the time set for meeting at the house.

Advised that Friends be careful themselves, and discourage their children from attending the worship of those who are not in communion with us, and particularly at burials; seeing that, in so doing, there is a danger either of balking their testimony for the truth, to the wounding of their own minds, or giving unnecessary offence to their sober neighbors.

It is the sense of this meeting, that meetings should not be appointed on account of the interment in our burial

grounds of persons who are not in membership with us; and that invitations to the burials of such who are not interred in our burial grounds should not be made in our religious meetings.

And also that Friends be religiously guarded in publishing invitations to the burials of such not in membership with us who are admitted to be interred in our grave yards.

In order that meetings may not be held at the interment of our deceased members in a customary or formal way, it is advised, that the proposal for holding any such meeting be previously submitted to the consideration of the elders and overseers, or other solid Friends, either of the meeting in the compass of which the deceased resided, or of that in which the interment is to take place, that the counsel or mind of truth may be waited for and followed.

And to prevent the introduction of improper interments amongst us, it is recommended that two or more Friends be appointed to the care of our several burial grounds by preparative or monthly meetings, as the case may require, and that no person who is not in membership be buried therein, without a permit in writing signed by one or two of those Friends; who should also take care that our burial grounds be properly enclosed and kept in decent order.

It is further recommended, that at all interments, time be allowed for a solemn pause, both before and after the corpse is put into the ground.

It is the sense of this meeting, that no monuments either of wood or stone be affixed to graves in any of our burial grounds; and if any yet remain therein, that these

be forthwith removed—so that no cause of uneasiness on this account may exist, or partiality be justly chargeable upon us.

Friends are advised against imitating the vain custom of wearing or giving mourning habits, and all extravagant expenses about the interment of the dead.

As great inconvenience may arise from the want of due attention to keeping a regular record of births and burials, it is earnestly enjoined on each monthly meeting, that they appoint a careful Friend, whose duty it shall be, in a book provided for the purpose, at the monthly meeting's expense, to keep a record of all births and burials of members that shall occur within their respective limits, and which shall be offered to him for that purpose; and in order to engage the attention of monthly meetings more closely to this subject, it is further enjoined, that an explicit answer be annually given by monthly to quarterly meetings, and through them to the yearly meeting to the query, Whether due care is taken to keep a regular record of births and deaths?

The form of the record to be as follows—

BIRTHS.

Names of the Children	When born.	Names of the parents.	Their residence.	Occasional notes.

BURIALS.

Names of the deeeased	When dec'd.	Age.	Where buried.	Late residence.	Occasional notes.

BOOKS.

It is recommended to the meeting for sufferings to advise or assist any of our members, on their own application, who may incline to publish any manuscript or work which may tend to promote the cause of truth or be beneficial to society. And it is the sense of this meeting, that if any one shall print or publish any writing which tends to excite disunity and discord among us, such persons should be complained of to the monthly meeting they belong to, and if they cannot be convinced of the impropriety of their conduct, be testified against, as opposed to the peace and good order of the society.

This meeting doth earnestly exhort all parents, heads of families, and guardians of minors, that they prevent, as much as in them lies, their children, and others under their care and tuition, from having or reading books and papers tending to prejudice the profession of the Christian religion, to create the least doubt concerning the authenticity of the Holy Scriptures, or of those saving truths declared in them; lest their infant and feeble minds should be poisoned thereby, and a foundation laid for the greatest evils. And it is earnestly recommended to every member of our religious society, that they discourage and suppress the reading of plays, romances, novels, or other pernicious books; and printers and booksellers in profession with us, are cautioned against printing, selling

or lending such books; as it is a practice so inconsistent with the purity of the Christian religion. And Friends are desired to be careful in the choice of all books in which their children and famllies read, seeing there are many under the specious titles of promoting religion and morality, which contain sentiments repugnant to the truth in Christ Jesus.

CERTIFICATES.

IT is recommended to the quarterly and monthly meetings, to take care that all certificates or minutes which may be given to any travelling Friend be recorded, and upon the return of such Friend, seasonably delivered back to the meeting; and that all certificates of removal brought by any Friend intending to reside amongst us, shall be lodged in the monthly meeting, where the same is accepted; and also that every meeting do keep a copy or record of all certificates which they give out.

All certificates of removal prepared for women Friends, after being considered in their monthly meeting, are to be sent to the men's, and if there approved, signed by the clerks of both.* If the certificate is for a man

* See appendix.

only, it is to be signed by the clerk of the men's meeting.

Friends are advised to be very cautious in changing their places of residence: it having been observed that the dissolving of old, and the forming of new connexions, have in many instances been attended with effects prejudicial to a growth in the truth and the service thereof, both in the heads and younger branches of families; we therefore recommend to all, that on these occasions a strict attention be paid to the pointings of Divine Wisdom; and that before any determine to change their places of abode, they consult with their experienced fellow members.

When a monthly meeting is engaged to prepare a certificate on account of the removal of any Friend to reside within the limits of another monthly meeting, careful inquiry should be made by a committee appointed for that purpose, respecting the situation of his or her temporal affairs, and also, if single, concerning their situation in relation to marriage engagements; and if on such inquiry, no impediment should be found, the certificate should state, that, on inquiry no obstruction appeared relative to his or her outward affairs to the granting a certificate.

It is the judgment of this meeting, that when a certificate of removal from one monthly meeting addressed to another is produced therein, and it is found that the person or persons recommended, reside within the limits thereof, it should be considered as accepted, and the parties members of that meeting; but if any such persons shall fall into circumstances requiring pecuniary relief within one year after the receipt of such certificate, the meeting removed to, ought to assist them, giving speedy notice thereof to the other, whereupon that meeting should

immediately take care of them and repay the charge which has been or may be incurred on that account. But if any Friend be reduced in his or her circumstances by fire or other sudden unavoidable losses, though it may be within one year after their removal as aforesaid, they should be kindly assisted and relieved by the meeting where such persons reside.

All Friends removing out of the limits of their monthly meetings, whether for continuance, or for any considerable length of time, are advised to apply to their respective meetings for certificates directed to those within which they propose to sojourn or settle. But if any shall remove without so applying, the monthly meetings of which they are members, after the usual inquiry made, and no obstruction appearing, should send certificates for them to the monthly meetings within which they are removed, and that without improper delay; but if their conduct requires their being dealt with, and the distance such as to be inconvenient for the meeting they have removed from, the monthly meeting within which they are, should be requested to treat with him or her thereon, and report the effect of its care. On which, if it proves satisfactory, a certificate of recommendation or removal may be ordered; but if otherwise, and a testimony of disunion is issued, the meeting within which he or she resides, should be furnished with a copy thereof, to be delivered to the party, with information of their right of appeal.

It is to be understood that where apprentices, or persons under age, are under a necessity of going from one place to another, their parents or guardians, masters or mistresses, should apply for certificates for them, recom-

mending them to the care and oversight of the monthly meetings whereto they remove.

If any person appearing as a Friend, come within the compass of a monthly meeting, not being recommended by certificate, and be of disorderly conduct, the overseers, or other concerned Friends, should inquire whether or not he or she is a member of our society; and, if they prove so to be, admonish them, or, if the occasion require it, report the case to the preparative, and from thence to the monthly meeting; which should thereupon inform the monthly meeting of which he or she is a member, of the circumstance, and take the direction of said meeting, for dealing further with them, according to our rules in cases of that nature.

It is recommended that monthly meetings, as way may open, appoint two or more Friends to visit such, who come recommended by certificate to settle amongst them.

Monthly meetings are advised to take due care that certificates of removal be seasonably forwarded by suitable conveyances to the monthly meetings to which they are directed—they being the exclusive property of such meetings.

CHARITY AND UNITY.

IT is advised, that where there is any appearance of dissension and variance, or of unkind resentment and shyness among our members, the parties be timely and tenderly apprised of the danger to which they thereby expose both themselves and others, and earnestly exhorted to mutual condescension and forgiveness, becoming the followers of Christ: And if any, notwithstanding such endeavours for their help, continue to manifest an implacable enmity to others, the overseers or other solid Friends of the preparative or monthly meeting they belong to, should be informed thereof, and labor further with them: when, if they still prove inflexible, they ought to be testified against as out of the unity of the body—the very end of whose existence is the promotion of peace on earth, and good will amongst men.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

LIBERTY of conscience being the common right of all men, and particularly essential to the well being of religious societies, we hold it to be indispensably incumbent upon us to maintain it inviolably among ourselves: and therefore advise and exhort all in profession with us, to decline the acceptance of any office or station in civil government, the duties of which are inconsistent with our religious principles; or in the exercise of which they may be, or think themselves to be, under the necessity of exacting of their brethren any compliances against which we are conscientiously scrupulous. And if any persons in membership with us, notwithstanding this advice, shall persist in a conduct so reverse to our principles and religious liberty, it is the sense of this meeting that they be treated with, as in other cases of offence; and if they cannot be brought to see and acknowledge their error, that the monthly meetings to which they belong should proceed to testify our disunity with them.

And it is also the sense and judgment of this meeting, that Friends ought not, in any wise, to be active or accessary in electing, or promoting to be elected, their brethren to such offices or stations in civil government, the execution whereof tends to lay waste our Christian testi-

mony, or subject their brethren or others to sufferings on account of their conscientious scruples.

Believing that we are called to show forth to the world in life and practice, that the blessed reign of the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, is begun, and we doubt not, will proceed till it attains its completion in the earth, when according to the prophecies of Isaiah and Micah, "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Influenced by these principles, we cannot consistently join with such as form combinations of a hostile nature against any; much less in opposition to those placed in sovereign or subordinate authority; nor can we unite with or encourage such as revile and asperse them, for it is written, "Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people." Acts xxiii. 5.

CONDUCT AND CONVERSATION.

WHATEVER exercises we may meet with on account of a faithful testimony to the truth in all godliness of conversation; and to the end that we may not faint in our minds, let us consider the Captain of our salvation, who endured the contradiction of sinners, bearing his cross and despising the shame, and is now set down on

the right hand of God, where he continually maketh intercession for us—that following him, and under his banner fighting the good fight of faith, we may finally obtain the crown of righteousness which fadeth not away.

Advised that such be dealt with, who are given to lying, swearing, cursing; men and women unlawfully or unseemingly keeping company with each other, or any other scandalous practice; and where any are guilty of gross or notorious crimes, or such other disorderly or indecent practices as shall occasion public scandal, after being dealt with by the overseers or other concerned Friends, if they are brought to a sense thereof, such offenders ought without improper delay, to remove the scandal, and clear, as much as in them lies, our holy profession therefrom, by acknowledging the offence, and condemning the same in writing under their hand, to the satisfaction of the monthly meeting whereto they belong. And where any such offender refuseth so to acknowledge and condemn the fault, the said monthly meeting ought speedily to testify against him or her, and the fact.

If any in membership with us shall blaspheme,or speak profanely of Almighty God, Christ Jesus, or the Holy Spirit, he or she ought early to be tenderly treated with for their instruction, and the convincement of their understanding, that they may experience repentance and forgiveness; but should any notwithstanding this brotherly labor, persist in their error, or deny the divinity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the immediate revelation of the Holy Spirit, or the authenticity of the Scriptures; as it is manifest they are not one in faith with us,

the monthly meeting where the party belongs, having extended due care for the help and benefit of the individual without effect, ought to declare the same, and issue their testimony accordingly.

It is the earnest concern of this meeting that in all our dealings and transactions among men, strict justice may be observed, and that no motives of pecuniary interest may induce any of our members to impose on each other, or on their neighbors; and it is desired that monthly meetings may be careful to extend suitable admonition against a spirit of covetousness, and against every appearance of deviation from strict justice in any of our members.

Frequent waiting in stillness on the Lord for the renewal of strength, keeps the mind at home in its proper place and duty, and out of all unprofitable association and converse, whether amongst those of our own, or other professions. Much hurt may accrue to the religious mind by long and frequent conversation on temporal matters, especially by interesting ourselves unnecessarily in them; for there is a leaven in that propensity, which being suffered to prevail, indisposes and benumbs the soul, and prevents its frequent ascending in living aspirations towards the fountain of eternal life.

CONVINCED PERSONS.

IT is concluded that the following order be observed respecting persons who apply for admittance into membership, and request to come under the care of Friends. That they apply to the overseers or elders, who, when they are easy so to do, are to lay it before the preparative meeting; and after that meeting is fully satisfied, by paying a solid visit, or otherwise, they are to lay the case before the monthly meeting; which meeting shall appoint some suitable Friends to inquire into the person's life and conversation, and also to take a solid opportunity of conference with the party, in order the better to understand whether his or her motives for such request be sincere, and on the ground of true convincement; and make report of their sense of the person's suitableness to become a member; on which when the meeting is satisfied, a minute should be made, signifying the acceptance of such into membership, and appointing a Friend or two to acquaint the person thereof, requesting his or her attendance at the next monthly meeting.

But in all such cases, Friends are exhorted to attend carefully to the advice of the apostle, "Lay hands suddenly on no man:" the neglect of such caution having often been injurious both to the individuals and to the society—to them by settling them in a false rest; and to

the society, by adding to its numbers, without increasing its joy.

Wherefore, we desire, that on every application of persons to be received into membership with us, monthly meetings may be deep and weighty in their deliberations and result; and when united in believing that the applicants are clearly convinced of our religious principles, and in a good degree subject to the divine witness in their own hearts, manifested by a circumspect life and conduct, said meetings are at liberty to receive such into membership, without respect to nation or color. And such as may have been disowned, and incline to become members, may be received on their own request as other applicants.

DAYS AND TIMES.

Some reasons for not observing fasts and feast days and times, and other human injunctions and institutions relative to the worship of God.

EVER since we were a people we have had a testimony against formal worship, being convinced by the precepts of our Lord Jesus Christ, the testimonies of his apostles, and our own experience, that the worship and prayers

which God accepts, are such only as are produced by the influence and assistance of his holy Spirit; we cannot therefore consistently unite with any in the observation of public fasts, feasts, and what they term holy days; or such injunctions and forms as are devised in man's will for divine worship; the dispensation to which outward observations were peculiar, having long since given place to the spiritual dispensation of the gospel, we believe the fast we are now called to is not the bowing of the head like a bulrush for a day, but an universal and continual fasting and refraining from every thing which has a tendency to defile the soul and unfit it for becoming the temple of the Holy Ghost; according to the injunctions of Christ to his primitive disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him take up his daily cross and follow me. Watch ye therefore and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." That the primitive believers saw an end to these shadows of good things, by coming to Him in whom all figures and shadows end, is evident by the words of the apostle Paul; "For Christ, said he, is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth." Rom. x. 4.—"But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises." Heb. viii. 6. "Let no man therefore judge you in meat or drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days, which are a shadow of things to come, but the body is of Christ." Col. ii. 16, 17. And the same apostle thus expostulated with some who it appears had fallen from the

true faith in these respects, "But now after that ye have known God, how turn ye again to the beggarly elements, where unto ye desire again to be in bondage.—Ye observe days and months, and times, and years: I am afraid of you lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain." Gal. iv. 9, 10, 11.

DEFAMATION & DETRACTION.

FRIENDS are every where exhorted to maintain a strict watch over themselves and each other against the subtle and mischievous spirit of tale-bearing and detraction—the manifest tendency of which is to lay waste the unity of the body, by sowing the seeds of disesteem, strife, and discord among brethren and neighbors; as well as to unfit those who either propagate or listen to evil reports, for being of that service to the persons reflected upon, which they might be if the order prescribed by our blessed Lord to his church, was strictly observed, viz. "If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that, in the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it

unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican."

It is therefore advised that, in whomsoever this weakness appears, it may be immediately checked; and, if any one gives way to it, to the obvious injury of another's reputation or interest, let him or her be faithfully admonished; and, if they persist, and cannot be prevailed with to give due satisfaction, the preparative or monthly meeting should be informed of it, and deal further with them; when, if this produce not the desired effect, they should be testified against.

And, if any member who offends in this respect, shelters him or herself under a pretence, that they say no more than they have heard from others, but will not discover who they are—such reporters or tale-bearers should in like manner be dealt with, and testified against as being themselves the authors.

DISCIPLINE AND MEETINGS FOR DISCIPLINE.

THE institution of our meetings for discipline having, on experience been found very beneficial, it is earnestly recommended they may be maintained in that authority.

wherein they were established: Where any have been negligent in attending them, or opposed to their usefulness, carnality and spiritual death have been the consequence.

The connexion and subordination of our meetings for discipline are thus: Preparative meetings are accountable to the monthly; monthly to the quarterly; and the quarterly to the yearly meeting. So that if the yearly meeting be at any time dissatisfied with the proceedings of any inferior meeting; or a quarterly meeting with the proceedings of either of its monthly meetings; or a monthly meeting with the proceedings of either of its preparative meetings—such meeting or meetings ought with readiness and meekness to render an account thereof when required.

It is agreed that no quarterly meeting be set up or laid down, without the consent of the yearly meeting; no monthly meeting without the consent of the quarterly meeting; nor any preparative or other meeting for business or worship till application to the monthly meeting is first made; and, when there approved, the consent of the quarterly meeting be also obtained. Also, that no meeting for worship intended to consist of Friends belonging to two or more monthly meetings shall be set up, until the proposal be offered to and approved by both those monthly meetings, and the consent of their respective quarterly meeting or meetings be obtained: when the meeting proposed, is opened, it should be attended by a few solid Friends, deputed by each of the said monthly meetings. And, if at any time, it is thought expedient that a preparative meeting should be held at the same

place, the consent of the said monthly and quarterly meetings should be, in like manner, applied for and obtained; and the said preparative meeting should be annexed to either one or the other of those monthly meetings, as may be most likely to conduce to the benefit of the individuals who compose it, and the advantage of society.

It is directed, that a book be provided by every monthly and quarterly meeting, and fair minutes be kept therein, of all matters which shall come before and be determined by them. Monthly meetings, particularly, are advised to attend to and finish all such business with care and despatch, that it may, at no time, suffer by improper delay. And, if any case under consideration proves too weighty or difficult for them to determine, they should apply to their respective quarterly meetings for assistance; or, if the circumstances are such as to require it, refer it thereto by minute.

It is the sense of this meeting, as a general rule in all cases, that where any monthly or quarterly meeting has occasion for, and requests copies of any of the papers, minutes, or records of another monthly or quarterly meeting, the same may accordingly be granted.

Where any difference happens among Friends, and the same be entered in any monthly or quarterly meeting-book, it is agreed, that if the parties, or either of them, think that copies of such entries may be useful and necessary for them, and request the same, such monthly and quarterly meetings shall have a discretional power to give or refuse such copies, according to the circumstances and motives attending.

It is agreed, that a suitable number of men and women be appointed in each monthly meeting, to attend the service of the quarterly meeting, with such reports in writing, signed by their clerks, as may be given them in charge: also, that at least four of each sex be appointed in each quarterly meeting, to attend the yearly meeting.

And it is earnestly advised and desired, that all Friends who submit to these, or any other services of society, may be punctual in their attendance thereon; or, if prevented by sickness, or any other unavoidable occurrence, that they be careful to send information thereof; also, that those who are under appointments to meetings, do not withdraw therefrom before the conclusion, without obtaining the meetings' consent.

And when proposals of marriage are made, if any near relations of the parties (who are not in membership) are permitted to be present, they should withdraw before the meeting proceeds to any other business.

It is advised, that if a member under dealing removes into the compass of another monthly meeting; or, if previous to or after such removal, the conduct of him or her has been such as to require their being dealt with—and their residence be at so great a distance as to render it inconvenient for the monthly meeting to which they belong, it should request that into which they are removed, to treat with them according to our rules, and to report the effect of its care; when if it is satisfactory, the party should be recommended by certificate; or if otherwise, and a testimony of denial is issued, a copy thereof should be sent to the monthly meeting within the limits of which

he or she resides, and that meeting is to appoint two or more Friends to inform them thereof, and of their right of appeal.

After a charge against a member for disorderly conduct is entered on the minutes of a monthly meeting, he or she should not be permitted to sit in any of our meetings for discipline, till the case is issued, and the monthly meeting satisfied.

It is advised, that where any transgress the rules of our discipline, they may, without partiality, be admonished and sought in the spirit of love and divine charity, so that it may be seen by all, that the restoring spirit of meekness and christian love abounds, before church censure takes place, and that a gospel spirit is the spring and motive to all our performances, as well in discipline as in worship.

It is earnestly recommended, that in conducting the affairs of the church, Friends endeavor to manage them in the peaceable spirit and wisdom of Jesus, with decency, forbearance, and love to each other.

It appearing by the minutes of the meeting for sufferings, that on inspection of some of the accounts of sufferings sent up by the quarterly meetings, considerable difficulty has been occasioned by those accounts not expressing, with sufficient clearness, what the sufferings mentioned were for; it is now desired that the monthly and quarterly meetings may in future leave out of their reports any instances which do not appear to be clearly consistent with the sense of this yearly meeting; and that they continue to collect and send up their accounts of suffer-

ings annually as heretofore directed; and that they be preserved and recorded agreeably to the practice of our ancient friends, reciting the sums demanded, the kind and amount of property taken, by whom the distraints were made, and the authority under which the officers acted.

As to the rights of children whose parents have been married contrary to the rules of our discipline, it is agreed, that where either of those parents remain out of membership their children should not be esteemed members, till application for their admission is made either by themselves or by their parent, parents, or guardians, on their behalf, and the monthly meeting applied to, on a solid consideration of the case, is easy to admit them or any of them. The rights of children born of parents who have been married according to our rules, or of such children whose parents have both become members, and one of them afterwards disowned, are not intended to be affected by this rule, if a parent of either of those descriptions retains a right of membership at the time of the birth of any such child.

If any member of our religious society, shall apply to those called jugglers or fortune-tellers, or those who by colour of any art or skill whatsoever, pretend to a knowledge of future events, hidden transactions, or where things lost or stolen may be found; or if any of our members shall use, or pretend to such art or skill, it is advised that they be speedily dealt with, and if they do not manifest a due sense of their evil conduct, that they be testified against.

A committee should be annually appointed in each of

our quarterly and monthly meetings, for the nomination of clerks; which may afford opportunity for their being seasonably changed, and more of our qualified members exercised in those services.

As the use and design of preparative meetings is in general to digest and prepare business as occasion may require, which may be proper to be laid before the monthly meeting, Friends ought to be careful therein, not to occasion unnecessary delays, or undertake to decide on any business which claims attention and care in monthly meetings. And when cases are agreed to be carried forward, they should be entered in writing, and some suitable Friend or Friends named to produce them to the monthly meetings; and proper notes thereof should be carefully preserved by clerks of preparative meetings, as to said meetings may appear useful and right. But no preparative meeting shall take cognizance of proposals of marriage, this being exclusively the business of monthly meetings.

DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS.

EXECUTORS and trustees concerned in wills and settlements, are advised to a faithful and punctual dis-

charge of their respective trusts, according to the intent of the donors and testators; and both they and the meetings concerned in any charitable gifts, legacies, or bequests, to take special care that these be not perverted or appropriated to any other uses than such as the donors or testators have directed and enjoined by legal settlement, will, or testament.

FAMILY VISITS.

AS the visiting of Friends in their families in the openings of heavenly wisdom, is a service which hath often been blessed to the minds of the visitors and visited, this meeting hath from time to time recommended it to the solid attention of quarterly and monthly meetings: and it is desired, that concerns of this nature may be tenderly cherished, and those who are rightly exercised therein, encouraged to move forward in due season, and in a humble dependance on the Shepherd of Israel, who not only puts his own forth, but goes before and rewards all who are faithful to his appointments, with the enriching reward of sweet comfort and solid peace.

GAMING & DIVERSIONS.

AS our time passeth swiftly away, and our delight ought to be in the law of the Lord; it is advised that a watchful care be exercised over our youth, to prevent their going to stage-plays, horse-races, music, dancing, or any such vain sports and pastimes; and being concerned in lotteries, wagering, or other species of gaming.—And if any of our members fall into either of these practices, and cannot be prevailed with, by private labour, to decline them, the monthly meetings to which the offenders belong, should be informed thereof, and, if they be not reclaimed by further labor, proceed to testify our disunity with them.

LAW.

IF any member is complained of for withholding a just debt, he or she should be tenderly urged to payment; and if this is unavailing, be dealt with as in other cases of dis-

orderly conduct. And if any of our members appear unable to satisfy their creditors, they should be advised to call them together without loss of time; and submit the state of their affairs to their inspection: when, if the creditors apprehend a surrender of the debtors' effects to assignees for the benefit of the whole to be necessary, let him or her be earnestly entreated to consent; and, if they refuse so to do, the monthly meeting should be informed thereof; when, if the party still persists in refusing, he or she should be disowned without too long delay.

But if Friends in such difficult circumstances, manifest an honest intention, and shall offer their all to their creditors, let compassion and aid be extended to them as brethren, and objects of Christian charity—having done what they can, no more for the present is justly to be expected from them. Yet it is the judgment of this meeting, that if persons so failing in their circumstances, should at any time afterwards be favored with full ability to pay off their deficiencies, justice will require it of them, notwithstanding a composition with, and legal discharge from their creditors may have been obtained. This is however not meant to furnish any with a pretext for advancing such claims while persons so deficient are honestly laboring to retrieve their circumstances, nor until it shall clearly appear to their respective monthly meetings, or to a solid committee thereof, that a sufficient ability is arrived at; when, if they are requested to comply, and persist in refusing, the said meetings should proceed to disown them.

And it is desired, that no debtors may shelter them-

selves under such of our rules, as are designed to guard us against an unkind treatment of each other, unjustly hoping to be thereby put out of the reach of the civil authority.

And it is the sense of this meeting, that if any member thereof, disregarding the gospel order prescribed by our discipline, shall arrest or sue at law another member (not being under such a necessity so to do, as may satisfy the overseers or other solid and judicious Friends of the meeting to which the latter belongs) he or she in so doing, doth depart from the peaceable principle we make profession of; and if on being treated with by the monthly meeting to which they belong, they cannot be prevailed with to withdraw the suit and pay the costs thereof, they should be disowned.

MARRIAGES.

IT is advised, that all young or unmarried people in membership with us, previously to their making any procedure in order to marriage, do seriously and humbly wait upon the Lord for his counsel and direction in this important concern; and when favored with satisfactory clearness therein, they should early acquaint their parents

or guardians with their intentions, and wait for their consent; thus preservation from the dangerous bias of forward, brittle, and uncertain affections, would be experienced to the real benefit of the parties, and the comfort of their friends. And it is earnestly recommended to Friends, that they tenderly and carefully watch over the youth, and extend seasonable caution and admonition, as occasion may require.

Agreed that all single persons, being about to marry at a distance from home, do take care to procure certificates from the monthly meeting they belong to, of their right of membership, and clearness from any other person in respect to marriage, and also that they obtain the mind of their parents or guardians therein; and that none be permitted to join themselves in marriage until such certificates, and the consent of their parents or guardians thereto, be also signified in person, or by writing, where it is practicable, or may be reasonably obtained.

And no monthly meeting ought to permit any marriages to be proposed in the said meeting, sooner than a year after the death of husband or wife.

It is the sense of this meeting, that if any member do join in marriage with such as are not in membership with us, or in any other way than with the consent and approbation of the monthly meeting, they should be dealt with agreeably to our discipline, and, if not brought to a sense of their error, disowned.

On serious consideration concerning marriages, this meeting being tender in that respect, advises, that no misdemeanor be treasured up against a person until the

time of presenting marriage, and then started, though perhaps long before done, and known to those who so object to it at that time, which is a wrong thing, and should be checked and discouarged in all meetings.

It is recommended to monthly meetings, that according to the ancient decent practice amongst Friends, they take care that such men and women Friends who make suit or proposals of marriage one to the other, do not dwell in the same house, from the time that they begin to be so concerned, until the marriage is accomplished.

Advised, that marriages be not accomplished in or immediately after any of our monthly meetings, or other meetings of business, or on first-days. And it is desired that, on these occasions, Friends in affluent circumstances, particularly, may be careful to set a becoming and encouraging example of moderation; and that all may avoid unnecessarily expensive entertainments and large companies, and especially guard against inviting such as guests who are unlikely to conform to the order of our religious society.

Let such of our members be admonished, who keep company, in order for marriage, with persons not of our society; or with any bound servants or apprentices, without the leave of their masters or mistresses; or who are either present themselves, or consent to their children being present at marriages of those not in membership, which are accomplished by the assistance of a priest.—And where any are present at the marriage of a member, accomplished either by the official interference of a priest, or in any other way out of our comely order, they are to

be dealt with—and where they cannot be brought to a sense of their error, let them be testified against.

It is the judgment of this meeting, that where parents or guardians have approved the visits or addresses of a man (a member of our religious society) to any of their children or those under their care, that they do not retract the same, without giving such reasons as shall be satisfactory to the monthly meeting whereto they belong.

For the accomplishment of marriage, it is directed that the following order be observed—If both the parties belong to the same monthly meeting, the men's and women's monthly meetings should be informed of their intentions; and the man at a proper time be accompanied into the women's meeting, by a suitable Friend nominated thereto—there the parties are first to declare, that "With Divine permission, and Friends' approbation, they intend marriage with each other"—whereupon, two women Friends should be appointed by minute to make the usual inquiry respecting the woman; and then proceeding to the men's meeting, they should repeat (or make) the same declaration there, and two men Friends be in like manner appointed to inquire concerning the man. "Or, the parties making the proposal of marriage, may communicate their intentions to the monthly meeting in writing, signed by them both, in the following manner:

To the Monthly Meeting of ———.

With divine permission, and Friends' approbation, we intend marriage with each other." If the parties have parents or guardians present, their consent should be expressed; or, if the man is a member of another monthly meeting, the consent of his parents, if he have any, should

be produced in writing, either then or at the next meeting, with a certificate from his monthly meeting of his clearness from other like engagements. If the woman be a widow having children, two or more Friends should be appointed in the meeting of which she is a member, to see that the rights of her children are legally secured. At the next meeting, if the committees report that careful inquiry has been made, and no obstruction to the further proceeding of the parties appears, the meeting is to leave them at liberty to accomplish their marriage according to our rules, and appoint two Friends of each sex, to attend and see that good order is observed.

It is further advised, that the said marriage be accomplished decently, gravely, and weightily; and that the parties themselves, their parents and others concerned, do take care at the houses or places where they go after the meeting is over, that no reproach arise, or occasion of offence be given, by any intemperate or immoderate feasting or drinking, or by any unseemly, wanton, or rude discourses or actions; but that all behave with such sobriety as becomes a people fearing God; and that the company retire to their homes in seasonable time. And if any thing to the contrary is observed, the overseers, or other concerned Friends present, ought as speedily as they conveniently can, to take such aside who make any breach upon good order, and in brotherly love admonish them to a better behaviour; and the said overseers are to make report to the next monthly meeting, whether this advice concerning decency and order be observed, and take care that the marriage certificate be recorded.

The form of which certificate to be as follows:

Whereas, A. B. of ——————, in the county of ——————, in ——————, son of C. B. of —————— and H. his wife; and D. E. daughter of F. E. of —————— and M. his wife, having declared their intentions of marriage with each other, before a monthly meeting of the religious society of Friends, held at ——————, according to the good order used among them (*where the parties are under the care of parents or guardians add*) and having consent of parents or guardians concerned (*as the case is*) their said proposal of marriage was allowed of by the said meeting. Now these are to certify whom it may concern, that for the full accomplishment of their said intentions, this ——— day of the ——— month, in the year of our Lord ———, they, the said A. B. and D. E. appeared in a public meeting of the said people, held at ——— aforesaid; and the said A. B. taking the said D. E. by the hand, did, on this solemn occasion, openly declare, that he took her, the said D. E. to be his wife, promising, with divine assistance to be unto her a loving and faithful husband until death should separate them; and then, in the same assembly, the said D. E. did in like manner declare, that she took him, the said A. B. to be her husband, promising, with Divine assistance to be unto him a loving and faithful wife, until death should separate them. And moreover, they, the said A. B. and D. E. (she according to the custom of marriage, assuming the name of her husband) did as a further confirmation thereof, then and there to these presents set their hands.

And we whose names are also hereunto subscribed, being present at the solemnization of the said marriage and

subscription, have, as witnesses thereto, set our hands the day and year above written.

A. B.
D. B.

That the marriage of persons too near akin may, as much as in us lies, be prevented, this meeting concludes, that no marriage between first-cousins, nor between a man and his deceased wife's half sister, shall be permitted among us; and that, where any person or persons so circumstanced shall intermarry, their so doing shall be considered as a relinquishment of their connexion with the society, and they be accordingly disowned by the monthly meetings of which they are members. The term "first-cousins" fully applies to every description of grand-children descended from one common parent.

It is advised that parents exercise a religious care in watching over their children, and endeavor to guard them against improper or unequal connexions in marriage; that they be not anxious to obtain for them large portions and settlements, but that they be joined with persons of religious inclinations, suitable dispositions and diligence in their business, which are necessary to a comfortable life in a married state.

The increase of the breaches of our testimony, in going from amongst us in the weighty engagement of marriage, being often for want of due care in parents and those who have the important charge of educating the youth under their trust, early to admonish and instruct them in the principles of truth, and impress their minds with the duty of religiously observing them; as much as possible re-

straining them from such company as is likely to entangle their affections in an improper manner; we therefore tenderly advise Friends in all quarters to an increasing care over the youth, that the consistency of our principles in all respects with the nature of true religion, may be impressed on their tender minds, by upright examples, as well as by precepts; and that where there is apparent danger of the affections of any being improperly entangled, and the care of parents or guardians, or those who have their oversight, appears not sufficient to prevent their taking imprudent steps in the accomplishment of marriage, care be taken, timely to apply for the help of their friends.

Monthly meetings are authorised to give forth testimonies of denial against such parents or guardians who consent to, connive at, or encourage the marriages of their children and those under their care (members of our religious society) contrary to the good order established amongst us; if after Christian and brotherly labor with them, they cannot be brought to a due sense of their error, and a satisfactory acknowledgment of the same.

MEETING HOUSES.

IT is recommended to quarterly and monthly meetings o make timely and careful inspection into the situation f the titles of meeting houses, burial grounds, and other states which have been vested in trustees, and by them eld for the use and benefit of the society at large, or of ny of those meetings; so that if it should appear needul by the death of any such trustees or otherwise, due nd seasonable care may be taken to appoint some others o the trust; that future difficulties and the risk of being eprived of such estates may be avoided. And it is furher recommended that quarterly and monthly meetings espectively as the case may require, keep exact records f all such trusts and conveyances, and also that a clear nd regular account be kept by each respective meeting, f the place where, and the persons with whom the paers, minutes and records belonging to our religious soiety are from time to time deposited; wherein due care hould be taken to lodge them with suitable Friends.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE OR MEETING FOR SUFFERINGS.

IN order that this Yearly Meeting may be properly represented in the intervals thereof, it is directed that each quarterly meeting produce, in their reports to the yearly meeting annually, the names of four suitable Friends, to constitute together a Representative Committee, or Meeting for Sufferings, to be held and regulated according to the following rules:

First.—The said committee shall keep fair minutes of all its proceedings, and annually lay them before the yearly meeting.

Second.—No less number than twelve of the members attending, shall constitute a meeting capable of transacting any business.

Third.—On all occasions of uncommon importance, previous notice thereof shall be given, or sent, to all the members if practicable.

Fourth.—The said committee may sit on its own adjournments, and order these, as well as the times of its stated meetings, according to the business before them,

The services confided to this committee, are, in general:

First.—To represent this yearly meeting during its recess, and to act on its behalf in cases where the welfare of our religious society may render it needful. But it is not to meddle with any matter of faith or discipline.

Second.—To procure and distribute such books, or pamphlets, as may be a means of spreading the knowledge of our religious principles or testimonies; and to advise or assist any of our members, on their own application, who may incline to publish any such manuscript or work, as may tend to promote the cause of truth, or be beneficial to society.

Third.—To render advice and assistance to meetings, at their request, on subjects relating to property, titles to lands, the renewal of trusts, and the application of public gifts and legacies.

Fourth.—To receive from the several quarterly meetings their annual accounts of sufferings, and also such memorials, concerning deceased Friends, as those meetings may have concurred with, that when examined and approved, they may be laid before the yearly meeting; or otherwise be returned to the respective quarterly meetings for their revisal or correction.

Fifth.—To extend such advice and assistance to any individuals under suffering for our testimonies, as their cases may require; and, if necessary, to apply to the government, or persons in authority, on their behalf.

Sixth.—To correspond with representative bodies of

other yearly meetings, as occasions may require, on concerns of general interest to the society.

It is also agreed, that although none are properly members of the representative committee, but such as are appointed by direction of the yearly meeting as aforesaid, yet that other Friends, at the discretion of said committee, may be permitted to attend when they feel a concern so to do.

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP.

DEAR Friends, keep all your meetings in the authority, wisdom and power of truth, and unity of the blessed Spirit; and the God of peace be with you. And it is advised, that such as come late to meetings, or, when there fall asleep, or are restless, or do not stay in the meeting, but go forth unnecessarily, or otherwise demean themselves unbecoming our holy profession on those solemn occasions, be tenderly and seasonably admonished.

We exhort all to a Christian exercise and zeal in the performance of worship to Almighty God; and as we are not capable in our own strength to perform this great duty, we recommend to a diligent waiting in true silence

and retirement of mind, for the renewed sense of the inward power and virtue of his Spirit, whereby we shall be qualified to worship him in an acceptable manner. Let our faithfulness and sincerity herein appear, by the humility, meekness and circumspection of our lives and conversation, adorning the doctrines and principles of truth, as they were declared by Christ and his apostles: those who have been preserved in faithfulness therein, having to testify from that experience which cannot deceive, that it hath been very profitable; and therefore cannot be easy without encouraging and putting forward their children, apprentices and servants to this religious duty, as well as other behaviour suitable thereunto. And if this useful practice was more generally attended to, it would do more for us and them than any outward acquisition of wealth; and without doubt, some of those who have been placed under our direction, may with thankfulness have to view our pious care in taking them from worldly business to seek a city eternal in the heavens.

This meeting recommends, that Friends who are exercised in the discipline, would early extend their brotherly love and care, in visiting such amongst us who neglect their duty in attending our meetings for public worship. And as a wilful neglect of this important duty is a manifest evidence of ingratitude to the Divine Being, contrary to the example and practice of the primitive believers in Christ, and our religious testimony: it is the sense of this meeting, that as such who are thus insensible of their religious duty, disunite themselves from Christian fellowship with Friends, monthly meetings after having fully discharged their duty towards them, and finding

their endeavours to reclaim them ineffectual, should testify our disunion with them.

As the minds of many are turned towards Friends, and the appearance of a drowsy spirit in our religious meetings, is offensive, and may be a cause of stumbling to sober inquirers, it is earnestly desired that this weakness may not exist among us, and as indulgence therein must necessarily have a disqualifying effect, it is the sense and judgment of this meeting, that quarterly, monthly, and other meetings should be cautious of employing such members in the weighty services of the discipline.

MEMORIALS.

IF any monthly meeting should under solid consideration, believe it necessary to prepare a memorial concerning any deceased Friend who had been a member thereof, it is to go to the respective quarterly meeting, where, being duly weighed and agreed to, it is then to be forwarded to the meeting for sufferings, for inspection and approbation, previous to its being laid before this meeting.

MINISTERS AND ELDERS, AND MEETINGS OF MINISTERS AND ELDERS.

IT is our earnest desire, that both ministers and elders may be as nursing fathers and mothers to those that are young in the ministry, and with all care and diligence advise and admonish them, and if they see occasion, reprove them in a tender and Christian spirit, according to the rules of our discipline and counsel of Friends in that respect; also exhort them frequently to read the holy scriptures, and earnestly seek the mind of the Spirit of truth, to open the mysteries thereof, that, abiding in a simple and patient submission to the will of God, and keeping down to the openings of divine love and life in themselves, they may witness a gradual growth in their gifts, and be preserved from extending their declarations further than they find the life and power of truth to bear them up.

And our advice to all our ministers is, that they be frequent in reading the scriptures of the old and new testaments; and if any in the course of their ministry, shall misapply, or draw unsound inferences or wrong conclusions from the text, or shall misbehave themselves in point of conduct or conversation, let them be admonished

in love and tenderness by the elders or overseers where they live, and if they prove refractory and refuse to acknowledge their faults, let them be further dealt with, in the wisdom of truth, as the case may require.

As the occasion of our religious meetings is solemn, a care should ever be maintained to guard against any thing that would tend to disorder or confusion therein. When any think they have aught against what is publicly delivered, they should speak to the party privately and orderly; and if any shall oppose a ministering Friend in his or her preaching or exhortation, or keep on the hat or show any remarkable dislike to such when engaged in prayer, let them be speedily admonished in such manner as may be requisite, unless the person against whom the uneasiness is expressed has been disowned by a monthly meeting, or his or her public appearance disapproved by the elders.

This meeting agrees that each monthly meeting choose two or more Friends of each sex to sit with the ministers, and they together compose a meeting to be denominated a preparative meeting of ministers and elders; taking care that the Friends chosen for that service, be prudent, solid Friends, and that they do carefully discharge the trust confided to them.

When there is occasion for the appointment of one or more elders in any meeting, the proposal of separating a committee to consider the subject, should be first made in a monthly meeting, and when there united with, a proper number of Friends should be appointed; and in this committee, the names of the persons who may be

thought suitable, should be first mentioned, and, when concurred with, reported to the monthly meeting, without consulting the person or persons, or otherwise divulging it. If, upon due consideration, the nomination is approved, a minute should be made, and a copy thereof forwarded to the quarterly meeting of ministers and elders.

It is recommended to our monthly meetings that a committee be appointed at least once in four years, and as much oftner as the occasion may require, to consider the propriety of changing the elders, and of bringing forward well qualified Friends to fill that station.

When any Friend has frequently appeared in our religious meetings as a minister, and the preparative meeting of ministers and elders apprehends that it is seasonable the subject should claim the attention of the monthly meeting for discipline, of which the person is a member, they are at liberty to mention the matter therein, and if the monthly meeting after deliberate consideration, should unite in believing that a gift in the ministry has been committed to him or her, a minute expressive thereof should be forwarded to the quarterly meeting of ministers and elders, where, the case being solidly weighed, and the sense of the monthly meeting concurred with, information thereof should be sent to the preparative meeting of ministers and elders, of which the party is to be a member. And until the approbation of the quarterly meeting of ministers and elders is obtained, no such Friend is to be received as a minister, nor permitted to sit in the meetings of ministers and elders, nor travel abroad as a

minister. And no such approved minister is to appoint any meeting out of the limits of the quarterly meeting to which he or she belongs, without a certificate from the monthly meeting for discipline or the concurrence thereof.

It is the judgment of this meeting that when any Friend appointed to the station of an elder believes him or herself called to the ministry, and shall have appeared frequently in that capacity in our public religious meetings, they should withdraw from the meetings of ministers and elders.

When any approved minister apprehends it to be his or her duty to travel in truth's service out of the limits of their quarterly meeting, he or she is to open their concern in the monthly meeting to which they belong, and obtain a certificate or minute (as the occasion may be) of its unity and concurrence, directed to Friends within the parts proposed to be visited. And it is advised, that when the service is accomplished, the said meeting be informed thereof, and the certificate returned without unnecessary delay. *

Agreed, that when any Friend is religiously concerned to make a visit to the meetings of Friends beyond the limits of this yearly meeting, and has obtained a certificate for that purpose from the monthly meeting of which her or she is a member, that the concern be also laid before the respective quarterly meeting for its concurrence and endorsement, to be signed, if for a man, by the clerk

* See Appendix.

of the men's meeting only, but if for a woman, by the clerks of the men's and women's meetings. But if the concern be only to attend one of the yearly meetings on this continent, and to take such meetings as may be on the way thither, or on the return from thence, or to visit the meetings within one or two quarterly meetings adjacent to the limits of this yearly meeting, and which belong either to the yearly meetings of New York or Maryland, the concurrence of the monthly meeting therewith signified by their certificate or minute, will be sufficient.

If the concern is to make a religious visit beyond sea, the certificate should be signed, for a man Friend, by the men's monthly meeting generally, but for a women Friend by the men's and women's monthly meetings generally, and then go forward to superior meetings for concurrence.

It is recommended that when the concern of a Friend for the performance of a religious visit to meetings within the limits of this yearly meeting, is united with by the monthly meeting of which he or she is a member, that the said monthly meeting do carefully examine and see that the service may not be impeded, or the individual improperly burthened for want of requisite means to defray the expenses of such a journey. And where the concern extends beyond the limits of this yearly meeting, the like care should weightily rest upon and be attended to by the quarterly meeting to which the Friend belongs.

When any Friend is drawn to make a religious visit beyond sea, and the concern is united with in the respec-

tive meetings, according to the mode prescribed by the discipline, such committee as the yearly meeting may appoint for the purpose, should take care for the assistance of the individual when needful, and to appropriate so much of the stock of the meeting as they may judge proper for payment of the expenses incurred in the performance of the service.

The ministers and elders of each monthly meeting are to meet once in three months at such time and place as the monthly meeting may direct, in the capacity of a preparative meeting of ministers and elders; when, after a time of solid retirement, the queries addressed to such meetings are to be read and considered, and distinct answers made to them in writing, which, when signed by the clerk, are to be conveyed to the ensuing quarterly meeting of ministers and elders by two or more Friends to be mentioned in the report as representatives; but if, in the course of inquiry, any deficiency has appeared, care should be taken that it be remedied.

And in the said quarterly meetings, the queries are also to be read with the answers which are brought from their preparative meetings, and the state of the members weightily considered, that where occasion requires it, advice and counsel may be seasonably extended; and once a year those answers comprised in a written report and signed by the clerk, are to be forwarded to the yearly meeting of ministers and elders, by four or more Friends appointed as representatives. In this meeting the queries are also to be read with the answers from the several quarters, and the state of this part of the society being

collected and considered, advices adapted thereto, may, if requisite, be issued to the subordinate meetings of the like kind. And such ministers as propose to go in truth's service beyond sea, after obtaining a certificate of the concurrence of the monthly meeting, endorsed by the respective quarter, are to spread their concerns before the yearly meeting of ministers and elders, and produce the said certificates; and if, upon solid consideration, the same are united with, a certificate thereof signed by the clerk should be granted.

None of the said meetings of ministers and elders are in any wise to interfere with the business of any meeting for discipline, nor is the yearly meeting of ministers and elders to suffer its adjournments to interfere with the sittings of the yearly meeting for discipline.

We tenderly recommend faithful Friends, and especially ministers and elders, to watch over the flock of Christ in their respective places and stations, always approving themselves by their pious examples in conversation and conduct, to be such as faithfully and diligently walk up to the testimony of the blessed truth whereunto the Lord hath gathered us in this his gospel day.

And if any acknowledged member of our meetings of ministers and elders shall at any time be thought, by negligence, unfaithfulness, or otherwise, to have lost his or her service in that station, so as to become the subject of uneasiness and burthensome, (yet not so as to be under the care of a meeting of discipline on that account, or for misconduct,) it is advised that a timely and tender care be extended to such person according to gospel order;

them with a lively concern to excite honest endeavors, both by example and loving entreaty to caution and dissuade all our members from being concerned in the importation or retailing distilled spirits, or giving countenance thereto.

It is affectionately recommended, that Friends be careful to use moderation on account of marriages, births and burials, and on all other occasions; a departure from which being a cause of stumbling to many, and a great obstruction to a more full reformation, as well as attended with other evil consequences, tending to obscure that light which we have to hold up to others, and should have more abundantly, if we were faithful; lessening that savour which we ought ever carefully to preserve, agreeably to the monition of the holy apostle, "Let your moderation be known unto all men, the Lord is at hand."—Phil. iv. 5. And as the all-seeing eye beholds our thoughts, and views us in all our ways and actions, what manner of men ought we to be in all godliness of life, and sobriety of deportment.

And if any should distil spirits or sell such liquors, monthly meetings should deal with them as with other offenders, and if they cannot be prevailed with to desist from such a practice, be at liberty to declare their disunity with them.

NEGROES OR SLAVES.

IT appears to have been the concern of this meeting revived from time to time, with increasing weight, to testify their entire disunity with the practice of enslaving mankind, (and particularly to guard all in membership with us against being concerned in the purchase of slaves from the coasts of Africa,) yet as we have with sorrow to observe that in some parts of our country, this shameful practice is still continued and connived at, we think it proper to revive the advices heretofore issued, and again exhort our members to be no way accessary to this enormous national evil, but to discourage it by all the justifiable means in their power; it being obvious that wherever it prevails it tends to corrupt the morals of the people, so as not only to render them obnoxious to the displeasures of the Almighty, but deaf to his warnings, and insensible and regardless of his impending judgments.

And we earnestly desire it may become the concern of our members generally, to use the influence they have with those who hold slaves by inheritance or otherwise, that they may be treated with moderation and kindness, and instructed as objects of the common salvation in the principles of the Christian religion; as well as in such branches of school-learning as may fit them for freedom, and to become useful members of civil society. Also

that Friends in their several neighborhoods advise and assist such of the black people as are at liberty, in the education of their children, and common worldly concerns.

Understanding that some in membership with us, either through inadvertence or from selfish motives, have hired slaves to assist them in their business, we desire such to consider that in so doing they promote the unrighteous traffic and oppose our testimony against it. And it is our sense, that when slaves are thus hired, and the price of their services is intended for the benefit of those who claim the right of ownership, and not designed or applied to promote the liberation of the slave or slaves, such conduct is a violation of our testimony. And where any among us cannot be persuaded to relinquish the practice, monthly meetings be at liberty after patient labor has been found unavailing, to testify their disunity with them.

Friends are also cautioned against acting as executors or administrators to estates where slaves are bequeathed; and doing any thing whereby their bondage may be prolonged.

We are united in judgment, that the state of the black people, who have been held as slaves by any of us or our predecessors, calls for a deep inquiry and close examination, how far we are clear of withholding from them, what under such an exercise may be opened to our view as their just right; and we earnestly and affectionately entreat those in particular who have released any of them, to attend to the further openings of duty. Even if no such obligations to this people existed among us, it is

worthy of our serious consideration, whether any object of beneficence is more deserving of our regard, than that of training up their youth in such virtuous principles and habits as may render them useful and respectable members of the community.

It is the sense and judgment of this meeting, that if any of our members are concerned in importing, selling, or purchasing; or shall give away or transfer any negro or other slave, with or without any other consideration than to clear their estate of any future incumbrance, or in such manner that their bondage is continued beyond the time limited by law or custom for white persons; and also those who accept of such gift or assignment; they ought to be speedily treated with in the spirit of true love and wisdom, and the iniquity of their conduct laid before them. And if, after Christian labor, they cannot be brought to such a sense of their injustice, as to do every thing which the monthly meeting shall judge to be reasonable and necessary for the restoring such slave to his or her natural and just right to liberty, and condemn their deviation from the law of righteousness and equity, to the satisfaction of the said meeting, that such member or members be testified against as other transgressors are by the rules of our discipline for other immoral, unjust, or reproachful conduct.

It appearing that, notwithstanding the many afflictive dispensations with which divine wisdom has seen meet to visit this land, many of its inhabitants are so deaf to the language of the rod, as to continue in the nefarious traffic for slaves to the coasts of Africa: and that the im-

portation of them is still connived at: this meeting, considering such a conduct as a bold and impious defiance of the Ruler of Nations, and pregnant with the most alarming consequences to our country, earnestly recommends to the meeting for sufferings to embrace every suitable opportunity for advancing our testimony in this respect, and for calling the attention of the public mind to this awfully interesting subject.

OATHS.

ADVISED that our Christian testimony be faithfully maintained against the burthen and imposition of oaths, according to the express command of Christ, and the injunction of the apostle James, viz. "Ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shall perform unto the Lord thine oaths; but I say unto you, swear not at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne: nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; neither by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great king. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black: but let your communication be, yea, yea, nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." Mat. v. 33 to 37.

"But above all things my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea, be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation." James. v. 12.

From the year 1718 to 1771, divers minutes of this meeting appear, declaring that oaths administered by clerks or others, under the notice and connivance of Friends, either in court or elsewhere, violate our ancient testimony. And it is earnestly recommended to quarterly and monthly meetings, that where any under our name are parties to the administration of oaths, to be careful to proceed in dealing with them; and if they will not decline the practice and give suitable satisfaction to the meeting they belong to, to testify against them agreeably to the rules of our discipline.

As it is our duty to support our Christian testimony against oaths, faithful Friends are desired to extend brotherly labor towards those who deviate therefrom, and if such labour proves unsuccessful, monthly meetings should testify their disunity with them.

And Friends in all places are exhorted carefully to avoid electing or promoting their brethren to such stations in civil government as may subject them to the temptation of violating this testimony; and where any members shew an inclination or desire of soliciting or accepting of such offices, timely care should be taken to caution them against it. And in the execution of instruments of writing requiring witnesses, it is recommended that friends endeavor to procure such persons for this purpose, as will attest the same by affirmation.

OVERSEERS.

IT is recommended that in every monthly meeting a proper number of faithful and judicious men and women belonging to each of the particular or preparative meetings, be appointed to the station of overseers within the same: whose duty it is to exercise a vigilant and tender care over their fellow members; that if any thing repugnant to the harmony and good order of the society appears among them, it may be timely attended to and not neglected. And to prevent the introduction of all unnecessary and premature complaints to meetings of business, it is advised if any member shall have cause of complaint against another, that it be mentioned to the overseers, who are to see that the party complained of has been treated with according to gospel order, previously to the case being reported to the preparative or monthly meeting. And it is desired that in dealing with any, it be done in the spirit of meekness and love, patiently endeavouring to instruct and advise them; which, if ineffectual, the preparative meeting should be informed thereof; that, if needful the case may be laid before the monthly meeting, of which, notice should be given to the party, when it can be conveniently done. It is further recommended to our monthly meetings that a committee be ap-

pointed at least once in three years, or as much oftener as the occasion may require, to consider the propriety of changing the overseers and bringing forward in the improvement of their gifts, other Friends on whom a concern for the welfare of the society rests. And we tenderly exhort all our members who may be rightly called into this or any other service of thechurch not hastily to excuse themselves therefrom, but solidly to ponder the weighty advice of the apostle, "Feed the flock of God, which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as lords over God's heritage; but being ensamples to the flock: and when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory, that fadeth not away."

PARENTS AND CHILDREN.

IN much love to the rising generation, we exhort them to avoid the many vanities and ensnaring corruptions to which they are exposed. Bear in mind, dear youth, that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," and that "a good understanding have all they who do his commandments." Psalm xci. 10. Take the advice of

godly parents, guardians and friends; ever remembering that, next to our Creator, children ought to obey their parents, and that disobedience to them is a breach of the moral law, and was always offensive in the Divine sight. Submit to their reasonable requirings with cheerfulness, though these may sometimes thwart your own inclinations, and answer them not frowardly or crossly. They watched over you and toook care of you, when you were utterly unable to help or care for yourselves. Why then should any of you grieve and wound their still anxious minds by a conduct which (because of its tendency to obstruct your welfare and happiness) you know they cannot approve? Such as, running into vain and expensive fashions, associating with corrupt and libertine persons; frequenting taverns and places of diversion; wasting your precious time in idle discourse, and drawing the affections and inflaming the passions one of another; all which we have no doubt the divine Monitor in your own breasts often pleads with you against, and shews to be destructive of your peace. We beseech you, as fathers, to attend to this heavenly Instructor, and dutifully yield to the correspondent tender advice of your friends.—Shrink not from the cross of Christ in your garb, language or manners; but, through a subjection of your wills to the divine will, in these and all other respects, walk answerably to the purity of our profession, and the simplicity and spirituality of our worship: so may you be instructive examples to serious inquirers after truth; and not of those who, under a profession thereof, are preferring their own crooked ways, and turning others aside from the footsteps of its followers.

It is advised that where the pious exercise of parental care and authority is disregarded, and any of the youth in membership with us appear obstinately determined to run into and copy after the vain and extravagant fashions of the world in their dress and address, exposing themselves to the corrupting influence of evil company and excesses, whereby designing persons may entangle their affections, and draw them into unsuitable and unhappy connexions in marriage or otherwise, that such be timely and tenderly treated with, and shown the dangerous tendency of their conduct; and, if they cannot be prevailed with to desist therefrom, and amend their ways, they ought to be dealt with by their respective preparative or monthly meetings, as in other cases of offence; and if, after due expostulation and forbearance, they prove irreclaimable, they may be testified against.

And if any parents in membership with us, willingly indulge their children, or youth under their care in such extravagance, liberties and excesses, as are here pointed out, and persist in vindicating their conduct, they ought in like manner to be treated with and disowned.

Friends are advised to bring up their children to habits of industry, placing them with sober and exemplary members of the society, for instruction in such occupations as are consistent with our religious principles and testimonies, that as far as in us lies they may be preserved in a becoming conduct and demeanour.

And it is desired that those whose circumstances may furnish with ability for instructing, in useful and suitable employments, the children of members who are in situ-

ations less affluent, may receive them into their families upon terms so moderate and equitable as to remove every plausible reason for placing them with those not in membership with us.

PLAINNESS.

ADVISED, that all Friends, both old and young, keep out of the world's corrupt language, manners, vain and needless things and fashions, in apparel, buildings, and furniture of houses, some of which are immodest, indecent, and unbecoming. And that they avoid immoderation in the use of lawful things, which though innocent in themselves, may thereby become hurtful; also such kinds of stuffs, colors and dress, as are calculated more to please a vain and wanton mind, than for real usefulness; and let tradesmen and others, members of our religious society, be admonished, that they be not accessary to these evils; for we ought to take up our daily cross, minding the grace of God which brings salvation, and teaches to deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world, that we may adorn the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

in all things; so may we feel his blessing, and be instrumental in his hand for the good of others.

We tenderly exhort all, seriously to consider the plainness and simplicity which the gospel enjoins, and to manifest it in their speech, apparel, furniture, salutations and conversation, into which our forefathers were led by the Spirit of Christ, in conformity with his precepts and example; and for which they patiently suffered long imprisonments, and great persecutions; being convinced that it was their duty thus to bear a testimony against the vain spirit of the world.

The spirit of truth which led our ancients to lay aside every thing unbecoming the followers of Christ, still leads in the same path, all who submit to its guidance; we therefore earnestly entreat all Friends to watch over themselves in this respect. The example of our blessed Saviour, his immediate followers, and of virtuous and holy men in all ages, ought to make a due impression on every considerate mind; and especially on such as have had the advantage of a guarded education.

We also tenderly advise, that Friends take head, especially those who should be exemplary to others under their care, that they exercise plainness of speech without respect of persons, in all their converse among men; and not balk their testimony by a cowardly compliance, varying their language according to their company; a practice of very ill example, rendering those who use it contemptible, and looked upon as a kind of hypocrites, even by those with whom they so comply; this seems to be cautioned against by the apostle, when he advises, 1 Tim.

"That the deacons be grave, not double tongued;" plainly importing that it is inconsistent with the gravity of the gospel.

POOR.

IT is advised that the cases of all our members who are in indigent circumstances be duly inspected, that advice and relief may be seasonably extended, and assistance afforded to them in such business as they are capable of: and in order to defray the expenses which their support and the education of their children will necessarily occasion, it is recommended to each monthly meeting of men and women Friends to be open hearted and liberal in subscriptions for raising and continuing funds for these purposes; that the meetings of each sex should appoint a treasurer to receive the same, and a committee of suitable Friends to have the particular care of the poor, whose business it will be to visit, inspect into their wants, and relieve them. And in the exercise of this benevolent care, it is desired we may always guard against exposing the names or situations of our fellow members. And an appointment should be annually made of two or more Friends for settling the treasurer's account, and reporting its state to the meeting.

PRIESTS' WAGES OR HIRELING MINISTRY.

LET us keep in remembrance, that it is under the immediate teaching and influence of the holy Spirit that all acceptable worship is performed, and all true gospel ministry supplied; that this pure and powerful influence, in vessels sanctified and prepared by the divine hand, is the essential qualification to that work; and that as the gift is divine, the service is freely and faithfully to be discharged, without any view to reward from man.

And it is advised that where any of our members are so regardless of this testimony as to contribute to the support of an hireling ministry, and vindicate such conduct, that they be tenderly labored with to convince them of their error, but if this prove ineffectual, and they persist in their unfaithfulness, the monthly meetings to which they belong should proceed to declare our disunity with them, such conduct being opposed to our testimony for the free ministry of the gospel, which is "without money and without price."

QUERIES.

IT is agreed that the nine queries belonging to meetings for discipline, be read, deliberately considered and answered in each preparative and monthly meeting once a year; in order to convey an explicit account in writing to the quarterly meetings next preceding the yearly meeting that so this meeting may be clearly informed of the state of all our meetings.

Also, that the first, second and eighth of those queries be read, considered, and explicit answers to them made in writing in the two quarterly meetings preceding the one before mentioned, and also in the preparative and monthly meetings which report thereto. But none of the queries are to be read or answered in those quarterly meetings for discipline which immediately succeed the yearly meeting nor in the preparative or monthly meetings which report to those quarters.

It is not considered as obligatory on any meeting to read the above queries oftener than is here mentioned, or to read the above queries oftener than is here mentioned, or to read any others than such as are to be answered.—Nor is the reading and answering of them enjoined on any preparative meeting, where the members of that and the monthly meeting are the same.

It is further agreed that at the time when the nine queries are read in the preparative and monthly meetings, the advices and caution subjoined, shall be also distinctly read and solidly pondered; as a means of putting the members present upon considering, whether there be any occasion for an extension of care in those respects: and, if there is, of stirring them up to a faithful discharge of their duty as individuals, one towards another.

First Query. Are all our religious meetings for worship and discipline duly attended; is the hour observed; and are Friends clear of sleeping, and of all other unbecoming behaviour therein?

Second Query. Is love and unity maintained amongst you. Are tale-bearing and detraction discouraged. And where any differences arise, are endeavours used speedily to end them?

Third Query. Are Friends careful to bring up those under their direction, in plainness of speech, behaviour, and apparel; in frequent reading the holy scriptures; and to restrain them from reading pernicious books, and from the corrupt conversation of the world?

Fourth Query. Are Friends careful to discourage the unnecessary distillation or use of spirituous liquors, frequenting taverns and places of diversion; and to keep in true moderation and temperance on the account of marriages, burials and other occasions?

Fifth Query. Are poor Friends' necessities duly inspected, and they relieved or assisted in such business as they are capable of. Do their children freely partake of

learning to fit them for business; and are they and other Friends' children placed among Friends?

Sixth Query. Do you maintain a faithful testimony against oaths; an hireling ministry; bearing arms, training, and other military services; being concerned in any fraudulent or clandestine trade; buying or vending goods so imported, or prize goods; and against encouraging lotteris of any kind?

Seventh Query. Are Friends careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances, and to keep to moderation in their trade or business; are they punctual to their promises, and just in the payment of their debts; and are such as give reasonable grounds for fear on these accounts timely labored with for their preservation or recovery?

Eighth Query. Do you take due care regularly to deal with all offenders in the spirit of meekness, without partiality or unnecessary delay, in order for their help; and where such labor is ineffectual, to place judgment upon them in the authority of truth?

Ninth Query. Is due care taken to keep a regular record of births and deaths?

And in the preparative and monthly meetings, when all the foregoing queries are read and answered, the following advices are to be read with a suitable pause between them:

That no young or single persons make or encourage proposals of marriage with each other without consent of parents or guardians, or keep company with those who are not of our religious society, upon that account; and

if parents give their consent to, or connive at their children's thus keeping company, or marrying, that they be dealt with according to our discipline. And if any of our members have been present at marriages accomplished contrary to the rules of our discipline, that they also be dealt with.

That all public gifts and legacies be strictly applied to the uses intended by the donors; or, if any unforseen occurrence should render such compliance difficult or impracticable, that an early application be made to the meeting for sufferings for its advice or assistance; and that timely care be taken for the renewal of trusts.

That Friends intending removal be careful to apply for certificates; and that the cases of such who remove without certificates, or of sojourners coming from other places and appearing as Friends, without producing certificates, be properly attended to.

That Friends carefully inspect the state of their affairs once in the year; and make their wills and settle their outward estates whilst in health.

And it is further recommended that in conducting the affairs of our meetings, Friends endeavour to manage them in the peaceable spirit and wisdom of Jesus, with decency, forbearance and love of each other.

The following queries are also to be read, considered and answered once a year, in each monthly and quarterly meeting, and a report thereof made in writing to this meeting: and it is recommended that in answering the query respecting schools, monthly meetings furnish their respective quarters with particular accounts of the situa-

tion and circumstance of the several schools within their limits, and that the quarterly meetings convey to this meeting a summary statement thereof.

First annual Query. What changes have been made in the time of holding Friends' meetings, and what new meetings have been settled. *

Second Query. Are there schools established for the education of our youth, under the care of teachers in membership with us, and superintended by committees appointed either in the monthly or preparative meetings?

Third Query. Are the queries addressed to the quarterly, monthly and preparative meetings read and answered therein as directed?

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* See Appendix.

QUERIES FOR MEETINGS OF MINISTERS AND ELDERS.

IT is also concluded, that of the following four queries, formed for the use of the meetings of ministers and elders, the first three be read and distinctly answered in writing three times in a year, by each preparative meet-

ing of that kind, to its respective quarterly meeting: and that all the said four queries shall be in like manner read and answered, by the preparative to their quarterly meetings next preceding the yearly meeting of ministers and elders; that the quarterly meetings may be enabled to transmit a clear and distinct statement of those answers to that meeting.

First Query. Are ministers and elders careful to attend meetings for divine worship, bringing their families with them. Do they diligently attend meetings for discipline, encouraging such of their families to this duty as are of a proper age, and suitable deportment?

Second Query. Are ministers sound in word and doctrine; careful to minister in the ability which God gives?

Third Query. Are the lives and conversation of ministers and elders clean and blameless amongst men: are they in unity one with another, and with the meeting they belong to, harmoniously labouring for truth's honour?

Fourth Query. Are they good examples in uprightness, temperance and moderation; and careful to train up their families in plainness of dress and simplicity of manners, becoming our religious profession?

And it is earnestly and affectionately recommended, that ministers and elders watch over one another for good to help those who are exercised in the ministry in the right line, discouraging forward spirits that run into words without life and power, advising against affectation of tones and gestures, and every thing that would hurt their

service; yet encouraging the humble careful traveller; "speaking a word in season to them that are weary." And let all dwell in that which gives ability to labour successfully in the church of Christ, adorning the doctrine which they deliver to others, being examples of the Believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.

SCHOOLS.

THE education of our youth in piety and virtue, and giving them useful learning under the tuition of religious prudent persons, having for many years engaged the solid attention of this meeting, and advices thereon having been from time to time issued to the several subordinate meetings; it is renewedly desired, that quarterly, monthly and preparative meetings may be excited to proper exertions for the institution and support of schools; there being but little doubt, that as Friends are united, and cherish a disposition of liberality for the assistance of each other in this important work, they will be enabled to make such provision for the accommodation and residence of a teacher, with a family, as would be an encouragement to well qualified persons to engage in this ar-

duous employment: for want of which it has been observed, that children have been committed to the care of transient persons, of doubtful character, and sometimes of very corrupt minds, by whose bad example and influence, they have been betrayed into principles and habits which have had an injurious effect on them in more advanced life. It is therefore indispensably incumbent on us to guard them against this danger, and procure such tutors of our own religious persuasion, as are not only capable of instructing them in useful learning, to fit them for the business of this life, but to train them in the knowledge of their duty to God and one towards another. It is therefore proposed,

First. That a lot of ground be provided in each monthly or preparative meeting, sufficient for a garden, orchard, grass for a cow, &c. and a suitable house erected thereon.

Second. That funds be raised by contribution, bequests, &c. in each meeting; the interest of which to be applied either in aid of the tutors salary or lessening the expense of Friends in straightened circumstances, in the education of their children.

Third. That a committee be appointed in each monthly or preparative meeting, to have the care of schools and the funds for their support, and that no tutor be employed but with their consent.

Although the raising a sufficiency to answer those purposes may in some places appear difficult, yet as improvements of this kind are generally gradual, and have often arisen from small beginnings into very valuable establishments, it is desired that Friends may be encouraged there-

to, and keeping an eye to the divine blessing on their benevolent endeavours, make such essay for carrying into effect these recommendations as they may be enabled.

SCRIPTURES OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS.

We tenderly and earnestly advise and exhort all parents and heads of families, that they endeavor to instruct their children and families in the doctrines and precepts of the Christian religion, as contained in the scriptures; and that they excite them to the diligent reading of those excellent writings, which plainly set forth the miraculous conception, birth, holy life, wonderful works, blessed example, meritorious death, and glorious resurrection, ascension and mediation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and to educate their children in the belief of those important truths, as well as in the belief of the inward manifestation and operation of the holy Spirit on their own minds, that they may reap the benefit and advantage thereof, for their own peace and everlasting happiness: which is infinately preferable to all other considerations

STOCK.

AGREED, that there be collections brought in from each quarterly, unto the next yearly meeting, for a yearly meeting stock, to defray the charges of the said meeting, according to the several agreements made or hereafter to be made. 1695.

A stock having been generally kept, and by experience found useful, for the necessary occasions of the society, it is agreed, that the same be occasionally renewed by a collection from each quarter, and that it be continued in the hands of the treasurer appointed by this meeting, and subject to be drawn out by its direction, or by the meeting for sufferings, as the exigencies of society may require.

The sums which may be thought necessary, shall be raised by each quarter, in the proportions which may be ascertained by this meeting from time to time.

An arrangement of the quotas of the several quarterly

meetings, produced by a committee appointed for that purpose was agreed to in 1828, as follows:

Philadelphia quarter to pay	$15 in every $100
Abington - - -	13
Bucks - - -	13
Concord - - -	14
Caln - - - -	5
Western - - -	14
Southern - - - -	4
Burlington - - -	5
Haddonfield - - -	6
Salem - - - -	6
Shrewsbury and Rahway - - -	5

TAVERNS.

We think it necessary to caution, not only the youth, but those of riper age, to avoid the unnecessary frequenting of taverns, and other places of public resort; that they be not exposed to noisy company, and unprofitable conversation; or betrayed into the use of strong liquors, by which so many have been corrupted both in principle and practice, to the ruin of themselves and their families.—And if any are in danger on these accounts, it is desired that they may be timely and tenderly treated with in order to convince them of their danger.

Considering the temptations and snares which they are exposed to, who keep houses of public entertainment or beer-houses, the corrupting influence of many who resort to them, and its effects on the children and families so exposed; it is the judgment of this meeting, that our members avoid engaging in such employments for a livelihood; and attend to the pointings of pure wisdom for that end.

And it is desired, that Friends may endeavour, as far as their influence extends in the community, to prevent the unnecessary increase of taverns, and be cautious of signing petitions in behalf of those who may apply for licences on that account.

TESTIMONIES OF DENIAL AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

IT is the sense of this meeting that offenders inclining to make acknowledgment of their offences do prepare the same in writing, and if, on consulting the overseers or other judicious Friends, the purport appears suitable to the occasion, and the situation of the party will admit of it, he or she may present it to the meeting in person, and stay till it is read; when, after a time given for a solid pause, they should withdraw before that or any other bus-

iness is proceeded upon. The meeting is then to consider the case, and appoint two or more Friends to inform the party of the result.

In all cases where a meeting apprehends itself under a necessity to disown a member, let such member, if the occasion and his or her situation will admit of it, be previously informed thereof: and when the judgment of the meeting is issued, let a copy thereof be delivered to the party testified against, with notification of his or her right of appeal.

TRADE.

IT being evident that where the manifestations and restraints of the Spirit of truth are duly prized and regarded, it leads out of a bondage to the spirit of this world, and preserves the minds of its followers from many fettering and disqualifying entanglements; and contrariwise, that an inordinate love and pursuit of worldly riches, often betrays those who are captivated by them, into many difficulties and dangers, to the great obstruction of the work of truth in the heart: we affectionately desire that the counsel and gracious promise of our blessed Redeemer to his followers, may be borne in remembrance by us,

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

This meeting being earnestly concerned that the service of our religious society may not be obstructed, or its reputation dishonored, by any imprudence of its members in their worldly engagements, recommends to all, that they be careful not to venture upon such business as they do not well understand; nor to launch out in trade beyond their abilities, and at the risk of others; especially on the credit which may be derived from a profession of the truth; but that they bound their engagements by their means; and when they enter into contracts, or give their words, that they endeavor on all occasions strictly to fulfil them.

We particularly exhort that none engage in such concerns as depend on the often deceptive probabilities of hazardous enterprizes; but rather content themselves with such a plain and moderate way of living as is consistent with the self-denying principle we make profession of; whereby many disappointments and grievous perplexities may be avoided, and that tranquillity of mind obtained which is inseparable from the right enjoyment even of temporal things. And it is advised that, where any among us err, or are in danger of erring in these respects, they be faithfully and timely admonished.

It is recommended that Friends frequently inspect the state of their affairs, and keep their accounts so clear and accurate, that they may, at any time, easily know whether they live within the bounds of their circumstances, or not; and, in case of death, that these may not be perplexing to survivors. And whenever any find that they

have no more property left than is sufficient to discharge their just debts, it is advised, that they immediately consult with some judicious Friends, and, without loss of time, make their circumstances known to their creditors, carefully avoiding the payment of one in preferance to another, that so none may be injured, nor any reproach be incurred by mismanagement.

And where overseers, or other concerned Friends, have reason to fear that any person or family, by living above their means, or from a want of punctuality in fulfilling their contracts, or any other cause, are declining in their circumstances, and likely to fail, it is recommended that such be seasonably treated with, and (if it appear requisite) advised to call their creditors together without delay. And if, notwithstanding this advice, such persons still persist and run into embarrassment, to the loss of others and to their own disreputation, the preparative or monthly meeting to which they belong, ought to be timely informed thereof, and proceed to deal with them according to our rules; when, if this labour also prove ineffectual, a testimony of denial may be issued against them

It is advised that where such failures occur, and the cases are under the care of monthly meetings, that the Friends appointed to visit the parties, inquire of their assignees or trusteees, how their deficiencies have happened, and report accordingly. And it is the judgment of this meeting that neither monthly nor other meetings should receive subscriptions, donations or bequests from persons so circumstanced until they have paid off their deficiencies, or are voluntarily acquitted thereof by their creditors: for it should be remembered that though, in

such cases, the defaulter may have been legally discharged, the property he may afterwards acquire is not properly his own, till he has fairly paid off his former debts, to the satisfaction of the creditors. Wherefore we further advise that, if any such person or persons, on being suitably reminded of their duty in this respect, shall refuse to comply therewith, inquiry be made into the reason, and if it be not such as shall satisfy the monthly meetings of which they are members, and, they cannot be prevailed with, the said meetings, after a proper time of labor and forbearance, may issue a testimony of denial against them.

In order regularly to bring all cases of failure before preparative and monthly meetings for their care, and also, a provision more effectually to insure an impartial distribution of the effects of insolvents, the following rules were adopted. 1816.

When any member of our religious society in trade or business becomes unable to discharge his or her debts, the overseers should take an early opportunity to ascertain the circumstances of the case, and spread the same before the preparative meeting, in order that it may be regularly forwarded to the monthly meeting: and if it shall appear that such failure has arisen from a want of due attention to the advices of this meeting on the subject of trade and business, and has brought reproach on our religious profession, the monthly meeting shall be at liberty to issue a testimony of disownment.

And it is also the judgment of this meeting that when any of our members are about to assign their property, their creditors should be consulted, if practicable; and

have the liberty of appointing assignees to take charge of the effects, which should be assigned without any condition or reservation; and if the party do not so proceed, the case shall be treated as is directed in the preceding paragraph.

Advised that when Friends accept the office of trustee or assignee, they be active in collecting the effects of the estate, and punctual and speedy in making distribution.

Advised that Friends every where carefully avoid being any way concerned in defrauding the government of its duties; that so our ancient testimony in this respect may be inviolably maintained.

We warn our members against a pernicious practice amongst the trading part of the community, which has often issued in the ruin of those concerned therein, viz. That of raising and circulating a kind of paper credit, with endorsements, to give it an apperance of value, without an intrinsic reality; a practice which, as it appears to be inconsistent with the truth we profess, we declare our disapprobation of, and entreat every member of our society to avoid and discourage.

We also caution all in membership with us to avoid entering into joint securities with others, under the specious plea of rendering acts of kindness; many, by so doing, having been suddenly ruined, and their innocent wives and children reduced to deplorable circumstances. "Be not thou, said the wise man, one of them that strike hands; or of them that are sureties for debts. If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?"

We affectionately desire that Friends may wait for divine counsel in all their engagements, and not suffer their minds to be huried away by an inordinate desire of worldly riches; remembering the observation of the apostle in his day, and so often sorrowfully verified in ours, that "They who will be rich, fall into temptation and a snare;" and, erring from the faith, "pierce themselves through with many sorrows." Even when riches to any extraordinary degree have been amassed by the successful industry of parents, how often have they proved like wings to their children, carrying them beyond the limitations of truth, into liberties repugnant to our religious testimonies, and sometimes into enterprizes, which have terminated in irreparable damage to their temporal affairs, if not an entire forgetfulness of the great work of the soul's salvation.

WAR.

FRIENDS are exhorted faithfully to adhere to our ancient testimony against wars and fightings, and in no way to unite with any in warlike measures, either offensive or defensive, that by the inoffensiveness of our conduct we may convincingly demonstrate ourselves to be real subjects of the Messiah's peaceful reign, and be in-

strumental in the promotion thereof, towards its desired completion; when, according to ancient prophecy, "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea; and its inhabitants shall learn war no more."

When goods have been distrained from any Friends on account of their refusal to pay fines for non-performance of military services, and the officers, after deducting the fines and costs, propose to return the remainder, it is the sense of this meeting, that Friends should maintain their testimony by suffering, rather than accept such overplus, unless the same or a part of it is returned without a change of the species.

It is declared to be the sense of this meeting, that furnishing wagons, or other means for conveying of military stores, is a military service, and that the care of elders, overseers, and faithful Friends, should be extended, in true love and Christian tenderness, to such as deviate herein, in order to convince them of their error.

It is the sense of this meeting, that a tax, levied for the purchasing of drums, colors, or for other warlike uses, cannot be paid consistently with our Christian testimony.

This meeting fervently recommends to the deep attention of all our members that they be religiously guarded against approving or showing the least connivance at war, either by attending at or viewing of military operations, or in any wise encouraging the unstable deceitful spirit of party, by joining with political devices or associations, however speciously disguised under the ensnaring subtleties commonly attendant thereon; but that they sincerely

labor to experience a settlement on the alone sure foundation of pure unchangeable truth; whereby, through the prevalence of unfeigned Christian love and good will to men, we may convincingly demonstrate that the kingdom we seek is not of this world. A kingdom and government whose subjects are free indeed! redeemed from those captivating lusts from whence come wars and fightings.

A living concern for the advancement of our testimony to the peaceable kingdom of Christ, continuing to spread in many minds, a fervent desire hath prevailed among us, that the members of our religious society would carefully avoid engaging in any trade or business promotive of war, sharing or partaking of the spoils of war by purchasing or selling prize goods, importing or shipping goods in armed vessels, paying taxes for the express purpose of war, grinding of grain, feeding of cattle, or selling their property for the use of the army: that through a close attention to the monitions of divine grace, and guarding against the supression of it either in themselves or others, they may be preserved in a conduct consistent with our holy profession, from wounding the minds or increasing the sufferings of each other; not at all doubting, that he to whom appertains the kingdom and the power; who is wonderful in working, will continue to carry on and perfect his blessed cause of peace in the earth. A solid attention to this concern is recommended to quarterly, monthly and preparative meetings, and to our brethren in general, it being the judgment of this meeting, that if any of our members do either openly or by connivance pay any fine, penalty or tax in lieu of

personal service for carrying on war, or allow their children, apprentices or servants to act therein, or are concerned in arming or equipping vessels with guns, or deal in public certificates issued as a compensation for expenses accrued or services performed in war, that they be tenderly dealt with, and if they cannot be brought to an acknowledgement of their error, monthly meetings are at liberty to testify against them.

It is the sense and judgment of this meeting that it is inconsistent with our religious testimony and principle for any Friend to pay a fine or tax, levied on them on account of their refusal to serve in the militia, although such fine or imposition may be applied towards defraying the expenses of civil government; and where deviations in this respect occur, tender dealing and advice should be extended to the party in order to their convincement and restoration; and if this proves ineffectual, monthly meetings should proceed to testify against them.

WILLS.

KNOWING how quickly many are removed by death, it is weightly recommended, that care be taken by each monthly meeting, that Friends who have estates to dispose of, be advised to make their wills in time of health, and strength of judgment, and therein to direct their substance as in justice and wisdom may be to their satisfaction and peace; laying aside all resentment, though occasion may have been given, lest it should go with them to the grave; remembering we all stand in need of mercy and forgiveness. Making such wills in due time can shorten no one's days, but the omission, or delay thereof to a time of sickness, when the mind should not be diverted from a solemn consideration of the approaching awful period of life, has often proved very injurious to many, and been the occasion of creating animosities in families, which the seasonable performance of this necessary duty might have effectually prevented.

Friends are earnestly recommended to employ persons skilful in the law, and of good repute, to make their wills, as great inconvenience and loss, and sometimes the ruin of families have happened through the unskilfulness of some who have taken upon them to write wills, being unqualified to act in a matter of such importance. And all Friends who may become executors or administrators

are advised to make a full, clear and perfect inventory of the estate and effects of the deceased, early after the interment, as many difficulties and disputes have arisen, and sometimes injustice been done for want of it, or by deferring it too long.

WOMEN'S MEETINGS.

FORASMUCH as our women's meetings for discipline were set up and established in divine wisdom, and by long experience have been found of advantage, not only to the society in general, but to the youth of their own sex, in particular; it is earnestly desired, they may be encouraged to come up to the help of their brethren in that part of the discipline of the church properly claiming their attention and care. On considering the nature and extent whereof, it is apprehended a benefit might accrue, by explicitly setting forth their distinct allotment and separate services in their monthly and quarterly meetings, and also in their yearly meeting.

Women's monthly meetings, are,

First. To inspect and relieve the wants of the poor of their own sex; and where their own funds are insufficient, they are to apply to the men's meeting for their aid, and for their concurrence, as cases shall require.

Second. To take cognizance of proposals of marriage, and appoint two of their members to inquire into the conversation and clearness of the woman; also two to the oversight of the marriage.

Third. They are to appoint a suitable number of overseers, who are to treat with offenders of their own sex; that their cases be laid before the women's preparative, and if needful their monthly meeting, which should proceed to deal further with such delinquents and report the result of their labors to the men's meeting; and if further dealing is expedient, the men should appoint a committee to unite with the women therein; the report of which joint committee is to be made to each meeting, and the women having considered the same, are to inform the men's meeting of their sense thereon, and the subject to be finally resulted by the men: but when a case is brought by the women into the men's meeting, if on solid consideration further dealing does not appear to be needful, and the men are most easy to issue it, a committee should be appointed to prepare a testimony of disownment, which, when approved, is to be sent to the women's meeting for their concurrence, and care in delivering it to the party.

Fourth. On application of a woman for admission or reinstatement into membership; after a religious care therein hath been exercised by women overseers, and in the preparative meeting as the case may require, the women's monthly meeting is to make an appointment to join the men, the report of which united committee is to be made to each meeting, and the women's meeting having considered the same, are to convey their sense thereon

to the men's meeting, where the subject shall be considered and finally resulted.

Fifth. They are to join in certificates of removal for women Friends; in order whereto, the women's monthly meeting is to appoint two or more of their members to make the necessary inquiry, that the same may be prepared; and, after being considered in the women's, is to be laid before the men's meeting; and when there approved and signed, returned to the women's meeting for their signature; but if the certificate is intended to include one or more males, then they are to report the result of their inquiry to the Friends named on the like inquiry by the men's meeting; in which the certificate being approved and signed, is to be sent to the women's meeting for their concurrence and signing. And all certificates received for women Friends, are to be laid before the men's meeting, before they can be fully accepted by the women's meeting.

Sixth. When a woman minister apprehends herself under a religious engagement to travel in truth's service, she is first to spread her concern before the women's meeting, and if united with, the same is to be laid before the men's meeting, whose result is to be communicated to the women's meeting; to which, when a certificate for that purpose is prepared and signed by the men's meeting, it is to be sent for their concurrence and signing.

Seventh. When the nomination of a woman elder is judged expedient, the women's meeting should appoint a judicious committee, to join a like committee of the men's meeting in the consideration thereof; whose united

report is to be communicated to each meeting; and the women's meeting, after due deliberation and previous to their making any conclusive minute thereon, are to impart their sense to the men's meeting for their judgment and determination.

Eighth. The women's preparative meetings, where more than one constitute a monthly meeting, are to consider and answer the queries: which is likewise to be done in their monthly meetings; from which they are to report the state of each monthly meeting to their respective quarterly meeting; to attend which as their representatives, they should nominate two or more of their members.

It is desired that women Friends in their respective monthly meetings, would afford their aid to the men's meetings in the preservation of a regular record of births and deaths.

WOMEN'S QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

First. When a woman minister under religious concern to travel in truth's service, produces to the quarterly meeting a certificate of the approbation of the month-

ly meeting of which she is a member, if the concern is concurred with in the women's meeting, it should be submitted to the men's meeting, and when approved, an endorsement to that effect should be made on the certificate, signed by the clerk, and returned to the women's meeting for signing by their clerk.

Second. They are to receive the written accounts sent from the respective women's monthly meetings, and transmit the collected answers to the queries, except the ninth, with such other matters as appear needful, to the women's yearly meeting; to attend the service whereof, each quarterly meeting is to appoint a suitable number of representatives.

Third. They are to communicate to their respective monthly meetings, such advices as they apprehend necessary, with any epistles or writings issued for that purpose by their yearly meeting; nominate committees at the request of the men's meeting to visit their monthly meetings, or for any other service which the men's meeting shall judge expedient; and in all respects, they are to attend to those matters which may properly come under the notice and care of women's quarterly meetings.

THE YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS,

Held annually in Philadelphia, at the time of holding this meeting, is at liberty to correspond with any other yearly meetings of their own sex, either in America or elsewhere, and to issue such counsel and admonition to their own quarterly and monthly meetings, as in the wisdom of truth shall appear conducive to real benefit and mutual edification; but the said yearly meeting is not to hear or determine on any appeal, nor at liberty to make or alter any rules of discipline or queries.

They are to have a stock of their own, for such services as may fall more properly under their notice.

And finally, it is desired that a fair record be kept of the minutes and proceedings of the yearly, quarterly, and monthly meetings of women Friends; and that annually their representatives to the yearly meeting exercise a proper religious care in the choice of a clerk.

YEARLY MEETING.

IT appears by the records, that our first yearly meeting was held at Burlington in New Jersey, the thirty-first day of the Sixth Month, 1681, O. S. for the provinces of Pennsylvania and New Jersey; that in 1685 it was agreed to be held alternately at Burlington and Philadelphia; that in 1755 the time of holding it was changed to the Ninth Month; that in 1760 it was concluded to be held at the same time at Philadelphia only; that in 1798 the time of holding it was altered to the third Second-day in the Fourth Month; that in 1827 the time of holding it was fixed on the second Second-day of the Fourth Month. In 1838, the time of holding the yearly meeting was changed to the Second-day after the second First-day of the fifth month; the yearly meeting of ministers and elders to be on the seventh day of the week preceding; and both to begin at the tenth hour.

It is agreed that such Friends as may be appointed to prepare epistles shall meet together before they proceed on the service, and also examine the several essays previous to their being laid before this meeting.

Agreed that all letters or papers directed to the yearly meeting, except from such meetings as regularly correspond therewith, be first perused by a few Friends to be

appointed, who are to consider and report whether the same be proper to be read in this meeting or not.

Agreed, that when extracts from the minutes of this meeting are ordered to be sent to the quarterly meetings, a full copy shall be sent by each of those meetings to their respective monthly meetings, and by their monthly to each of their preparative meetings, in order that each meeting may have a copy thereof, to have recourse to as occasions may require.

The certificates of such Friends, members of other yearly meetings, who, from a religious concern, are drawn to attend this, are to be read herein.

APPENDIX.

Note 1—Page 18.

At the Yearly Meeting of 1837, an alteration was made in this part of the discipline, by striking out of the following sentence the parts printed in italics.

If they are directed to any place beyond the limits of this yearly meeting, they are to be signed by the clerks, and at least four other friends of each sex. And if the certificate is for a man only, it is to be signed by the clerk of the men's meeting, *and at least four other men Friends.*

Note 2—Page 82.

In 1836 the yearly meeting changed this query from "what new meetings settled," to the form in which it now stands.

In the same year the following was adopted as explanatory of the discipline, page 57.

The subject brought up last year from Abington Quarter, asking an explanation of that part of discipline, relating to the appointment of Elders, which was referred for consideration this year, now coming before the meeting; it is united in conclusion, that a committee *shall* be appointed once in four years, or oftener if needful, to

consider the propriety of changing the Elders, without enjoining it on Monthly Meetings, to make any change, unless it is deemed necessary, it being distinctly understood, that whether any change is made or not, the committee bring the names to the monthly meeting for its judgment; and that the information of said appointment be transmitted, by minute to the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, as already required by the discipline.

At the yearly meeting held in 1837, the following was agreed upon, and is referred to in page 58, as properly belongs between the paragraph ending with the words "unnecessary delay," and the next paragraph.

Agreed that when a Minister believes it right to pay a religious visit beyond the limits of the quarterly meeting to which he or she belongs, the concern be opened in both men's and women's monthly meetings for their consideration and judgment, and if approved, the certificate or minute to be signed by the clerks of both the men's and women's meetings. And when the prospect is of such an extent as to require the approbation of the quarterly meeting, the like proceedings take place therein.

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